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Economic and Social Council

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Resumed substantive session of 2004

Provisional summary record of the 52nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 16 September 2004, at 3.30 p.m.

President Ms. Rasi ..... (Finland)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.20 p.m.

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(a) Reports of coordination bodies (A/59/16)

(b) Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 (relevant fascicles of A/59/6; E/AC.51/2004/7)

The President said she took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-fourth session (A/59/16).

It was so decided.

Non-governmental organizations (E/2004/32) (*continued*)

Adoption of measures pertaining to draft decision V in document E/2004/32 (Part I) and statement on programme budget implications (E/2004/L.38)

The President said she took it that as agreed during unofficial consultations, the Council wished to postpone the adoption of measures pertaining to the question until the next resumed session.

It was so decided.

Mr. Cumberbatch (Cuba) said that the Council was sending the wrong message to civil society. For the first time, the work of the standing committee responsible for relations with non-governmental organizations and their accreditation to participate in the Council's work was being hindered. His delegation was dissatisfied with the process, which entailed postponing implementation of the Committee's decision, which had been reached by consensus, for the second time. Moreover, the statement of programme budget implications was mistaken and wrong. Before deciding on the date, the Committee had consulted with the parties concerned regarding the availability of services. His delegation could not allow the work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be hindered nor could it agree to any shortening of the time recommended as necessary for its work. His delegation had been flexible for the second time, but it would not be so flexible the third time around.

Economic and environmental questions (A/59/99-E/2004/83) (*continued*)

The President suggested that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (A/59/99-E/2004/83) and transmit it to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Ms. Tamly (United States) said that she had understood that the amendment proposed by the United States, which was based on the Secretariat's recommendation, would be circulated in written form so that delegations could examine it. The debate on the question would then be continued at the resumed session.

Mr. Aho-Glele (Benin) said that in principle, his delegation had no problem with the oral decision proposed by the President. However, the amendment proposed by the United States raised serious concerns, since it involved a substantive issue. The amendment involved recommending that the General Assembly should consider whether the quinquennial review of the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States was necessary. Such a decision was not within the competence of the Council. The text proposed by the Secretary-General requested both the Council and the Assembly to consider whether the quinquennial review was necessary. The Council might take note of the report and transmit it to the Assembly, which would then adopt whatever decision it considered pertinent. The Council could not instruct the General Assembly as to what it should decide. The question was a substantive one. His delegation could not accept the amendment.

Ms. Navarro (Cuba) said that she endorsed the views expressed by the representative of Benin. Her delegation also had concerns regarding the United States amendment. However, bearing in mind the Secretariat's comments concerning paragraph 3 of the report, her delegation would be willing to take note of the report as suggested by the President.

Ms. Tamly (United States) said she regretted that there would be no opportunity to consider the issue. While it was true that the matter was entirely up to the General Assembly, the Assembly itself had entrusted the Council with the task of reviewing the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States so as to enable it to prepare for a full and systematic review of the question. Consequently,

by not examining the question, the Council might not be fulfilling the responsibility entrusted to it. There had been no prior examination of the matter at all. Considering the facts and not just the words spoken, it looked like the Council was not so interested in the issue after all. Her delegation was prepared to withdraw the amendment and looked forward to its being considered by the General Assembly.

The President thanked the United States delegation for showing a conciliatory spirit. She took it that the Council wished to adopt the oral decision she had proposed.

It was so decided.

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*)

Adoption of measures on draft resolution I contained in document E/2004/31

The President noted that the Facilitator, Mr. Xolisa Mfundiso Maghongo (South Africa), had satisfactorily concluded the negotiations. She read out the agreements reached in the informal consultations:

> In paragraphs 1, 4 and 5, and subparagraphs 10(b)(ii) and (iv), the phrase "Millennium Development Goals" should be replaced by the following wording: "the internationally agreed development goals, including those relating to the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration."
>
> Paragraph 10(b) should read as follows: "The Commission on Science and Technology for Development, within the limits of existing resources and in the framework of its mandate as coordinator of science and technology activities in the United Nations system, is requested to:"

Ms. Tamly (United States) said that since not all members had the same recollection of the final wording agreed on during the negotiations, it was important to ensure that everyone had the definitive text and to review it again with the Facilitator.

The President suggested that the matter should be postponed until the next resumed session so that a common understanding could be reached.

It was so decided.

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

The President said she took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution on the International Conference on Financing for Development, which had been circulated in English only and had been approved ad referendum during the informal consultations held prior to the meeting.

It was so decided.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments

Commission on Population and Development

The President noted that Thailand had been nominated to fill one of the four vacancies in the Commission on Population and Development. Since there were no other nominees and no objections had been raised, she took it that the Council wished to elect Thailand by acclamation for the position, for a term expiring on 31 December 2005.

It was so decided.

The President said she also took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of the following members of the Commission on Population and Development: two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, one for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2004 and the other one for a term expiring on 31 December 2007, and one member from the Group of Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2005. She encouraged the regional groups to fill those vacancies as soon as possible.

It was so decided.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The President invited the Council to elect a member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to fill the vacancy created by the death of Ms. Njuma Ekundanayo, of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The only candidate was Ms. Liliane Muzangi Mbela, who had been nominated by that country. If she heard no objection, she would take it that the Council wished to elect Ms. Muzangi Mbela by acclamation to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 2005.

It was so decided.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

The President, noting that there were seven vacancies on the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, said that Argentina had nominated its candidate for the term expiring on 31 December 2006. Since there were no other candidates, and if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Council wished to elect the candidate nominated by Argentina by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The President said she took it that the Council wished once again to postpone the election to fill the six remaining vacancies on the Intergovernmental Working Group, namely, one position for the Asian States, two for the Latin American and Caribbean States and three for the Western European and Other States. All the vacant positions were for terms beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2005.

It was so decided.

Mr. Cumberbatch (Cuba) asked if information was available on the dates and the manner in which consultations would be held to reach an agreement on the Committee on Non-Government Organizations.

The President said that she would try her best to ensure that the necessary decisions were taken before the next resumed session.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.